

House Committee On Education  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and members of the Committee:

As a parent of an Oregon public charter school student, I am writing today in support of House Bill 3444. HB 3444 will fix a deep disparity currently happening in Oregon schools: that Oregon public charter school students are essentially funded at 48 cents on the dollar compared to district students. Public charter school students are public school students, and it's past time to fund their education fairly.

Almost every public charter school parent has a story as to why a public charter school became the right fit for their child and their family. Many families are put in the awful position of having to choose between the educational services and experience their child needs that only a public charter school provides, at the expense of other services that the state funds at traditional public schools, like transportation support, food security programs and more.

I have experienced firsthand the transformative impact charter schools can have on children. My son's progress as a kindergartener at a charter school has been wonderful to watch. His teachers are dedicated, talented and deeply invested in each child's success. Their commitment, along with a thoughtfully designed curriculum, has made a world of difference in my son's growth and happiness. I actively participate in his education, and the collaboration between parents and educators at our school is truly exceptional.

Unfortunately, because of Oregon's current school funding model, public charter schools are significantly underfunded. Many buildings are old and in need of upgrades or are not designed to promote learning as they are repurposed buildings; students can't access transportation services; food security programs are limited; and schools lack essential school supplies and mental health resources. I respectfully ask you to vote in favor of HB 3444 and work to ensure that charter school students are treated fairly under Oregon's education system. You can fix this ongoing disparity and provide fair funding for public charter school students who deeply need it.

Please vote yes on HB 3444.

Thank you,

Hoang Doan